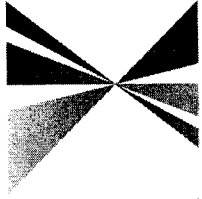


SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



**ASSOCIATION OF
GOVERNMENTS**

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Buena Ventura • Toni Young, Port Hueneme

Orange County Transportation Authority: Lou
Correa, County of Orange

Riverside County Transportation Commission:
Robin Lowe, Hemet

Ventura County Transportation Commission:
Keith Millhouse, Moorpark

MEETING OF THE

COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC, & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**Thursday, September 1, 2005
10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

**SCAG Offices
818 W. 7th Street, 12th Floor
Riverside B Conference Room
Los Angeles, California 90017
213. 236.1800**

If members of the public wish to review the attachments
or have any questions on any of the agenda items,
please contact Laverne Jones at 213.236.1857 or
jones@scag.ca.gov.

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COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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"Any item listed on the agenda (action or information) may be acted upon at the discretion of the Committee".

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Councilmember Robertson, Chair
- 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Members of the public desiring to speak on an agenda item or items not on the agenda, but within the purview of the Committee, must fill out and present a speaker's card to the Assistant prior to speaking. A speaker's card must be turned in before the meeting is called to order. Comments will be limited to three minutes. The chair may limit the total time for all comments to twenty (20) minutes.
- 3.0 REVIEW and PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS
- 4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR
 - 4.1 Approval Item
 - 4.1.1 Approve Minutes of July 7, 2005 Attachment 01
 - 4.2 Receive and File
 - 4.2.1 State and Federal Legislative Matrix Attachment 08
 - 4.2.2 Compass 2% Implementation Partnership June 30, 2005 Meeting Notes Attachment 14



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5.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 5.1 Sponsor the 2005 Housing Summit:
Removing Barriers to Affordable Housing
Attachment

Joe Carreras
SCAG Staff

21

5 minutes

The Southland faces a housing affordability crisis that is pushing home ownership further out of reach for families across the region. The Summit brings the federal Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Director of the State Department of Housing and Urban Development, elected officials and the building industry together to address the challenge of making homes affordable.

Recommended Action: Approve.

6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

- 6.1 Compass 2% Strategy Update

Mark Butala
SCAG Staff

10 minutes

A progress report on recent Compass 2% Strategy activities and upcoming events.

- 6.2 Another Step Forward—a video
presentation on high density, mixed-use
design options by Western Riverside
Council of Governments (WRCOG)

Rick Bishop
Executive
Director,
WRCOG

15 minutes

The video is designed to inform the public about high density and mixed-use project options in Western Riverside County.



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6.3 Expanded Regional Comprehensive Plan
Approach and the California Environmental
Quality Act (CEQA)
Attachment

**Jacob Lieb
SCAG Staff**

23

15 minutes

Present report from the RCP Task Force on continuing CEQA Reform discussions and potential approach for the RCP.

6.4 Review of SCAG's RHNA Responsibilities
and Schedule
Attachment

**Joe Carreras
SCAG Staff**

28

15 minutes

The California Department of Housing and Community Development approved SCAG's request to coordinate RHNA with its Regional Transportation Plan forecasting. The July 6 letter is posted on the SCAG website.

7.0 **CHAIR'S REPORT**

**Councilmember
Robertson, Chair**

5 minutes

Call for Volunteers for the Economic Forecast Conference and Housing Summit Steering Committees.

8.0 **STAFF REPORT**

**Lynn Harris
SCAG Staff**

5 minutes

Opportunity for MPO's to apply for State Blueprint Planning Grant Funds.



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9.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Any Committee members or staff desiring to place items on a future agenda may make such request. Comments should be limited to three (3) minutes.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee will be held in the SCAG offices in October. Meeting date to be determined.



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July 7, 2005

Action Minutes

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC, & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. AUDIO CASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Deborah Robertson, at 10:33 a.m. There was a quorum.

Members Present

Arguello, Daniel
Bowlen, Paul (**Vice Chair**)
Campbell, Todd
Coerper, Gil
Davert, Doug
Jasper, Timothy
Krause, Mary Ann
Lantz, Paula
McCallon, Larry
McCullough, Kathryn
Norby, Chris
Poe, Marilyn
Richardson, Laura
Robertson, Deborah (**Chair**)
Ten, Mike

SGVCOG
City of Cerritos
City of Burbank
City of Huntington Beach
City of Tustin
City of Apple Valley
City of Santa Paula
City of Pomona
City of Highland
OCCOG
Orange County
City of Los Alamitos
City of Long Beach
City of Rialto
SGVCOG

Members Not Present

Dispenza, Mike
Foat, Ginny
Hofmeyer, Daryl
Kirby, Dan
Loveridge, Ronald
Lutz, Mary Ann
McSweeney, Susan
Nowatka, Paul
Perry, Jan
Reyes, Ed
White, Charles
Yousefian, Bob

City of Palmdale
CVAG Subregion
City of Paramount
SGVCOG
City of Riverside
City of Monrovia
City of Westlake
City of Torrance
City of Los Angeles
City of Los Angeles
WRCOG Subregion
City of Glendale

New Member(s)

Jon A. Edney

City of El Centro/IVAG

Community, Economic, & Human Development Committee
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1.0 CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Debra Robertson called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. Chair Robertson welcomed new member Jon Edney of El Centro/IVAG to the Committee.

2.0 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Chair Robertson was nominated for chair by Councilmember McCallon and seconded by Councilmember Richardson, Councilmember Marilyn Poe was nominated by Councilmember Coerper and seconded by Councilmember Krause; Councilmember Poe declined the nomination. It was then moved by Councilmember Arguello and seconded by Councilmember Ten to re-elect Deborah Robertson for Chair and was unanimously approved without objection. Councilmember Paul Bowlen was nominated for Vice Chair by Chair Robertson and seconded by Councilmember Richardson. There were no other nominees for Vice Chair, therefore, Councilmember Bowlen was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Butala, SCAG Staff, presented the Committee with an update of the compass Website noting the forms for the Suite of Services Requests and Demonstration Project Proposals are available on-line.

4.0 REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

5.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

The following consent calendar items were approved without objection.

5.1 Approval Item

5.1.1 Minutes of the May 5, 2005 meeting

5.2 Receive and File

5.2.1 State and Federal Legislative Matrix

5.2.2 SCAG Future Calendar

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 2% Strategy Implementation Through California Environmental Quality Act Streamlining

Jacob Lieb, SCAG Staff, presented suggestions for streamlining the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the purpose of facilitating key, strategic

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development regionwide. Pending approval from the Regional Council, SCAG staff would assist in the development of and support CEQA streamlining legislation based on the following principles:

CEQA streamlining should:

- Ease the development of housing in appropriate, strategic locations (e.g. urban infill and transit oriented areas).
- Pursue environmental outcomes that are preferable to current conditions or “no-plan” future scenarios.
- Ensure that CEQA is used as intended rather than abused in order to stop/delay good projects
- Promote regional planning.
- Address a number of environmental impacts at the regional, rather than project, scale.

The Chair thanked Jacob for the presentation and called for committee discussion. Mike Ten feels CEQA currently allows local leadership to define how much a project is focused or streamlined. A regional view is too broad for local application. Prefers the burden be on local leadership to streamline for local applications and that CEQA not be streamlined at the broad, statewide level being discussed.

Jacob Lieb pointed out all provisions of CEQA streamlining would be voluntary for enactment at local level.

Daniel Arguello stated SGVCOG support and participates in the 2% Implementation and Compass programs but the COG does not support CEQA streamlining as described at this time. They are concerned not all cities in the region are aware of and understand 2% Strategy etc. and the impacts of such streamlining stated his belief CEQA reform is in contrast to the laws of local control.

In answer to a question, Mark Pisano, Executive Director of SCAG, responded 4 other cogs in the State are doing “blueprint work”. Mr. Pisano went on to say the focus is to take the existing CEQA housing exemption to develop a further streamlined process that strengthens, environmental mitigations while expediting project approvals. He gave background on the State legislature’s, interest in the subject, the current housing crisis and the costs of EIR preparation statewide. He noted the Governor had included funds for the first time ever in the budget for this Statewide planning “blueprint” work

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Paula Lantz expressed concern that local government would lose prerogative and control over city specific impacts and that the pre-decisions in the proposal would not work. She states she did not support the concepts of the reform work and was opposed to anything that infringed on zoning and local guideline controls.

Todd Campbell stated his extreme concerns about the vagueness of the staff report and proposal before Committee. He does not think simply referencing the cost of EIRs is enough when you do not know the value of projects those EIRs reviewed. He stated he was not convinced yet that regional analysis or areawide was preferable to current CEQA process and the local benefits.

Jacob Lieb reemphasized the participatory nature of Compass and the CEQA reform proposals. After the Committee members and staff gave a brief background on the Compass work, Chair Robertson asked for more discussion on the CEQA proposal.

Councilmember Gil Coerper complimented staff on the work to date and made a motion to continue item to next meeting. Seconded by Councilmember McCullough.

Member Krause then stated she did not see any threat to local control in the CEQA reform package. She identified significant air quality benefits and water quality benefits in a proposal such as this.

Member McCullough expressed concern if SCAG does not show leadership in this CEQA reform area that the State will step in and then it will become a loss of local control. She then asked future discussions on this topic include clarification on how the CEQA reform proposal helps to keep equity in the use of land and other limited resources.

(Supervisor Chris Norby joined the Committee meeting at 11:20 a.m.)

After further discussion among the members, the Chair called for a vote on the motion 8 ayes, 8 noes.

Counsel Colin Lennard stated the motion does not pass.

New motion by Laura Richardson seconded by Doug Davert to accept staff recommendation as stated in the staff memo. Chair called for discussion on the new motion. Member Edney stated support of motion and noted the importance of moving forward and gave examples from his jurisdiction why it was important.

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Member Richardson noted important of timing to work with Legislature this year and further noted future opportunities make changes.

Daniel Arguello restated his opposition to motion and felt urgency was inappropriate on such a new and important item. Lynn Harris noted elements of the proposal had been ongoing and reported in CEHD and Regional Councils meetings.

Laura Richardson called for the question by restating motion: It was moved by Councilmember Richardson, and seconded by Councilmember Davert and passed to proceed to implement recommendation in the Compass program as described in the staff report with the following clarifications added: (1) the program is to be implemented voluntarily at the local level; (2) the regional analysis combined with the streamlined in-fill EIR will form the functional equivalent of an EIR, and (3) program is limited geographically to specific locations identified in the regional growth plan, known as the 2% areas. The motion passed with a vote of 11 ayes, 5 noes.

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 Status Report re: 2007 RTP Growth Forecast: Recent Trends in Population and Employment and Implementation for 2007 RTP Growth Forecast

Frank Wen, SCAG Staff, reported that consistent with the timelines and tasks specified in the forecasting process flow chart, Community Development and Forecasting staff, with tremendous help from subregions, cities, and subregion coordinators, are undertaking the following three tasks concurrently:

- Conduct survey of local jurisdictions regarding recent changes in general plan and developments that could affect the long-term growth patterns envisioned in the 2005 RTP/Growth Vision policy forecasts.
- Review 2003 base year small area distribution of employment, population, and household.
- Review recent trends in population, employment and household growth and assess their implications for 2007 RTP growth forecast.

The Chair thanked Mr. Wen for the report.

7.2 Briefing on the California Economic Strategy Panel

Bruce DeVine, SCAG Staff, gave the Committee a briefing on the Panel's work plan and priorities for 2005-2006. The Panel is mandated by AB 1532 which calls for a report at the end of this calendar year to the Legislature. The purpose of the Panel is to advise the Governor and the Legislature on long-term economic

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strategy. Mr. DeVine stated that the Panel approached their work in two ways. One was to focus on issues and policies at the regional level; and secondly, to carryout their work plan by breaking into working groups each dealing with a certain topic such as accountability for state economic development investments.

7.3 Ninth Annual Regional Economic Forecast Conference

Bruce DeVine also reported that one of the changes to planning the conference is when it will be held, which in this case, will be in January 2006. It was moved because some of the issues that may be raised by the State of the Region, to be published in early January, could have some direct impact on the Economic Conference to be held the third week of January. Also, staff is looking into other methods for financing the conference, and different venues for the meeting to be held, and finally staff will be looking for someone from the Regional Council to work on the Economic Conference planning group. It was suggested that staff keep in mind to use a venue that is accessible by transit.

7.4 Pre-planning for 2006 6th Annual Regional Housing Summit

Joe Carreras, SCAG Staff, first announced that there is a new workforce incentive being launched by the State in the amount of \$23,000,000. This funding is for communities based on their performance in building housing and developing new housing opportunities. The booklet staff presented at the last housing summit would help cities to assess whether they are eligible for these resources. There are also bonus resources for communities who have done well in meeting their lower income affordable housing needs as defined in the Regional Housing Needs Plan. The deadline for submission is March 2006.

Eligibility is determined by:

- A complying housing element
- Annual progress report to State HCD
- Building permits issued for affordable housing in 2005
- Land use approval for qualifying units after January 1, 2004

Mr. Carreras stated that Councilmember Paul Nowatka has kindly reserved the Toyota meeting room in Torrance if the Steering Committee wants to hold the Housing Summit in Torrance for 2006.

Chair Robertson suggested that this item should be put on the next agenda, with a call for volunteers to form a steering committee for the 2006 Summit.

7.5 Regional Comprehensive Plan Update

This item was moved to the September 1st meeting.

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8.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Robertson reported on her participation in lobbying in Sacramento to speak on CEQA, housing element reform, Prop 42, and a number of bills such as Go California. Chair Robertson felt the trip was very beneficial and well received. Also, she received a strong commitment from both houses that they would support a resolution to give to the California delegation in support of Reauthorization TEA and more importantly they are unified in bringing back dollars to California.

9.0 STAFF REPORT

Lynn Harris, SCAG Staff, reported that State HCD has approved SCAG's request for the schedule for the RHNA to be tied with the 2007 Growth Forecast/RTP. The letter of approval is posted on the SCAG website. The Chair requested this item be agendaized for September because of the need for detailed reporting.

10.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair reminded staff the Committee is awaiting a report on the Regional Comprehensive Plan Chapters.


11.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilmember Arguello and seconded by Councilmember McCullough to adjourn at 12:24 p.m. There will not be a meeting in August. The next CEHD meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 1, 2005 at the SCAG office.

Action Minutes Approved by:


**Lynn Harris, Manager
Community Development**

MEMO

DATE: September 1, 2005

TO: The Regional Council
The Community, Economic and Human Development Committee
The Energy and Environment Committee
The Transportation and Communications Committee

FROM: Charlotte Pienkos, Government Affairs Analyst
Phone: (213) 236-1811 E-Mail: pienkos@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: State and Federal Legislative Matrix

Following the enactment of the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 budget, the California State Legislature adjourned for a July 13th-August 15th summer recess. With lawmakers visiting their home districts, no progress was made on pending legislation. (Consequently, as of this writing on August 10th, there is no state update.) The attached matrix shows the disposition of state bills and constitutional amendments upon which SCAG has taken or is considering a position. Amendments to pending legislation must have been made by August 19th. Fiscal committees must have concluded their work by August 26th. September 9th is the last day to pass bills.

In Washington, SAFETEA-LU, the federal surface transportation bill, was passed by the Congress on July 29th and signed by the President on August 10th in a ceremony in Illinois. A separate agenda item in today's materials has been prepared for Regional Council and the Transportation and Communications Committee regarding SAFETEA-LU's highlights. The Congress now turns its attention to judicial appointments, temporarily leaving transportation issues behind. A SAFETEA-LU clean-up bill is already under discussion.



CA AB 426

AUTHOR: Bogh (R)
TITLE: HOV Lanes
FISCAL COMMITTEE: yes
URGENCY CLAUSE: no
INTRODUCED: 02/15/2005
LAST AMEND: 04/20/2005
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee
SUMMARY:

Requires the Department of Transportation to convert all high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes on state highways in the County of Riverside that currently operate on a 24-hour basis into part-time HOV lanes that operate as mixed-flow lanes except during peak periods, subject to any required approvals of the federal government.

STATUS:

05/25/2005 In ASSEMBLY Committee on APPROPRIATIONS: Heard, remains in Committee.

PRIVATE FILE: Transportation

COMMENTARY:

Support position extends only to Riverside County

Position: SCAG-Sup 05/05/2005

Subject: Transport

CA AB 697

AUTHOR: Oropeza (D)
TITLE: Highway Users Tax Account: Appropriation of Funds
INTRODUCED: 02/17/2005
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee
SUMMARY:

Provides that all moneys in the Highway Users Tax Account in the Transportation Tax Fund from the prior fiscal year are on continuously appropriated and may be encumbered for certain purposes until the Budget Act is Enacted.

STATUS:

05/25/2005 In ASSEMBLY Committee on APPROPRIATIONS: Heard, remains in Committee.

PRIVATE FILE: Transportation

COMMENTARY:

Amendment requested relates to facilitating the CPG reimbursement process.

Position: SCAG-Sup&Amend 04/15/2005

Subject: Revenue/Bond, Transport

CA AB 850

AUTHOR: Canciamilla (D)
TITLE: Toll Road Agreements
FISCAL COMMITTEE: yes
URGENCY CLAUSE: no
INTRODUCED: 02/18/2005
LAST AMEND: 05/03/2005
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee
SUMMARY:

Relates to the Department of Transportation. Authorizes the department to enter into comprehensive development franchise agreements with public and private entities or consortia for specified types of transportation projects. Authorizes tolls to be collected after the termination of a franchise agreement period. Authorizes the department to construct and operate a high-occupancy vehicle and other preferential lanes as toll facilities.

STATUS:

05/25/2005 In ASSEMBLY Committee on APPROPRIATIONS: Heard, remains in Committee.

PRIVATE FILE: Transportation

Position: SCAG-Sup 05/05/2005

Subject: Transport

CA AB 1090

AUTHOR: Matthews (D)
TITLE: Solid Waste: Diversion: Conversion
INTRODUCED: 02/22/2005
DISPOSITION: Pending

LOCATION: Assembly Natural Resources Committee

SUMMARY:

Revises the waste management practices that the integrated Waste Management Board and local agencies are required to promote. Repeals the definition of the term gasification. Defines the terms conversion technology, beneficial use and recovery. Revises the definition of the term "transformation" to exclude pyrolysis, distillation or biological conversion other than composting from that definition. Specifies that transformation does not include conversion technology.

STATUS:

04/18/2005 In ASSEMBLY Committee on NATURAL RESOURCES: Heard, remains in Committee.

PRIVATE FILE:

SolidWaste

Position:

SCAG-Sup 04/07/2005

Subject:

SolidWaste

CA AB 1266

AUTHOR:

Niello (R)

TITLE:

State Highways: Design-Sequencing Contracts

FISCAL COMMITTEE:

yes

URGENCY CLAUSE:

no

INTRODUCED:

02/22/2005

LAST AMEND:

05/04/2005

DISPOSITION:

Pending

LOCATION:

Assembly Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Authorizes the Department of Transportation to award design-sequencing contracts for the design and construction of not more than 4 additional transportation projects, to be selected by the Director of Transportation.

STATUS:

05/25/2005 In ASSEMBLY Committee on APPROPRIATIONS: Heard, remains in Committee.

PRIVATE FILE:

Transportation

Position:

SCAG-Sup 04/15/2005

Subject:

Transport

CA ACA 13

AUTHOR:

Harman (R)

TITLE:

Local Government: Assessments and Fees or Charges

FISCAL COMMITTEE:

no

URGENCY CLAUSE:

no

INTRODUCED:

02/22/2005

LAST AMEND:

04/21/2005

DISPOSITION:

Pending

LOCATION:

Assembly Local Government Committee

SUMMARY:

Proposes a Constitutional amendment that excludes a fee or charge related to flood control, stormwater drainage or surface water drainage from restrictions on the imposition or increase of a property-related fee or charge by a city, county or special district upon compliance with requirements for written notice to property owners, a public hearing, and an opportunity for majority protest, and upon the approval by a majority vote of the property owners of the property subject to the charge or fee.

STATUS:

04/21/2005 To ASSEMBLY Committees on LOCAL GOVERNMENT and APPROPRIATIONS.

04/21/2005 From ASSEMBLY Committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENT with author's amendments.

04/21/2005 In ASSEMBLY. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

CA SB 44

AUTHOR:

Kehoe (D)

TITLE:

General Plans: Air Quality Element

FISCAL COMMITTEE:

yes

URGENCY CLAUSE:

no

INTRODUCED:

01/04/2005

LAST AMEND:

05/17/2005

DISPOSITION:

Pending

LOCATION:

Assembly Second Reading File

SUMMARY:

Requires the legislative body of each city and county located in specified areas to either adopt an air quality element as part of its general plan or amend the appropriate elements of its general plan to include data and analysis, comprehensive goals, policies, and feasible implementation strategies to improve air quality no later than one year from the date specified for the next revision of its housing elements that occurs after a specified date. Requires cities and counties to comply by a certain date.

STATUS:

07/13/2005 From ASSEMBLY Committee on APPROPRIATIONS: Do pass.

PRIVATE FILE:

AirQuality

Position:

SCAG-Opp 06/02/2005

Subject:

AirQuality, LandUse

PRIVATE FILE:

LandUse

Subject:

AirQuality, LandUse

CA SB 172

AUTHOR:

Torlakson (D)

TITLE:

Bay Area State-Owned Toll Bridge: Financing

FISCAL COMMITTEE:

yes

URGENCY CLAUSE:

no

INTRODUCED:

02/09/2005

LAST AMEND:

05/27/2005

DISPOSITION:

Pending

LOCATION:

Assembly Transportation Committee

SUMMARY:

Requires the seismic retrofit surcharge on bay area toll bridges to be paid into the Bay Area Toll Account. Requires the Bay Area Toll Authority to amend its agreement with the Department of Transportation to specify the respective duties of each agency with respect to the seismic retrofit and other bridge construction projects. Requires the authority and department to form a Toll Bridge Program Board of Control to review those projects.

STATUS:

06/13/2005

To ASSEMBLY Committee on TRANSPORTATION.

PRIVATE FILE:

Transportation

Position:

SCAG-Watch 05/05/2005

Subject:

Revenue/Bond, Transport

CA SB 371

AUTHOR:

Torlakson (D)

TITLE:

Public Contracts: Design-Build: Transportation

INTRODUCED:

02/17/2005

LAST AMEND:

04/26/2005

DISPOSITION:

Pending

LOCATION:

Senate Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Authorizes, until January 1, 2011, certain state and local transportation entities to use a design-build process for bidding on highway construction projects. Establishes a procedure for submitting bids that includes a requirement that design-build entity bidders provide certain information in a questionnaire submitted to the transportation entity that is verified under oath. States the intent of the Legislature that a transportation entity implement a labor compliance program for such projects.

STATUS:

05/26/2005

In SENATE Committee on APPROPRIATIONS: Heard, remains in Committee.

PRIVATE FILE:

Transportation

Position:

SCAG-Sup 04/15/2005

Subject:

Transport

CA SB 521

AUTHOR:

Torlakson (D)

TITLE:

Local Planning: Transit Village Plans

FISCAL COMMITTEE:

no

URGENCY CLAUSE:

no

INTRODUCED:

02/18/2005

LAST AMEND:

05/27/2005

DISPOSITION:

Pending

LOCATION:

Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee

SUMMARY:

Requires a transit village plan to include a transit station and a parcel, at least 1/2 of which is with no more than 1/4 mile of the exterior boundary of the parcel on which the transit station is

located or parcels located in an area equal to the area encompassed by a 1/4 mile radius from the exterior boundary of the parcel on which the station is located. Defines blight under the Community Redevelopment Law to include the lack of high density development within a transit village development district.

STATUS:

06/13/2005 To ASSEMBLY Committees on HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT and LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

PRIVATE FILE:

Position: LandUse
NARC-Sup 06/02/2005

Subject: Housing, Transit

CA SB 575

AUTHOR: Torlakson (D)
TITLE: Housing Development Projects
FISCAL COMMITTEE: no
URGENCY CLAUSE: no
INTRODUCED: 02/18/2005
LAST AMEND: 06/16/2005
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Assembly Third Reading File
SUMMARY:

Amends Planning and Zoning Law provisions relating to approval or disapproval of projects for farmworker housing, very low, low-, or moderate-income households. Revises conditions upon which a disapproval or a conditional approval of a housing development project is based. Authorizes the applicant for a project or a resident to bring an action and the court to vacate the decision of the local agency, deem the application complete, and impose fines if the court finds the agency acted in bad faith.

STATUS:

06/30/2005 In ASSEMBLY. Read second time. To third reading.

PRIVATE FILE:

Position: LandUse
SCAG-Sup 06/02/2005
Subject: Housing, LandUse

CA SB 760

AUTHOR: Lowenthal (D)
TITLE: Ports: Congestion Relief: Security Enhancement
FISCAL COMMITTEE: yes
URGENCY CLAUSE: no
INTRODUCED: 02/22/2005
LAST AMEND: 05/27/2005
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee
SUMMARY:

Imposes on each shipping container processed in the Port of Los Angeles or the Port of Long Beach a fee of \$30 per twenty-foot equivalent unit, payable by the marine terminal operator processing the container to the port where the marine terminal is located. Requires each port to retain 1/3 of the funds derived from imposition of the fee and transmit the remaining 2/3 in the amount of 1/2 due to the Port Congestion Relief Trust Fund and 1/2 to the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

STATUS:

06/27/2005 From ASSEMBLY Committee on NATURAL RESOURCES: Do pass to Committee on APPROPRIATIONS.

PRIVATE FILE:

Position: Transportation
SCAG-Watch 05/05/2005
Subject: Transport

CA SB 832

AUTHOR: Perata (D)
TITLE: CEQA: Infill Development
INTRODUCED: 02/22/2005
LAST AMEND: 05/04/2005
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee
SUMMARY:

Relates to infill development under the California Environmental Quality Act. Provides an alternative to infill criteria if the site is located in a city with a population of more than 200,000 persons, the site is not more than 10 acres, and the project does not have less than 200 or more than 300 residential units, as adopted by a resolution of the city council.

STATUS:
07/05/2005 From ASSEMBLY Committee on NATURAL RESOURCES: Do pass to Committee on APPROPRIATIONS.

PRIVATE FILE: LandUse

Position: SCAG-Sup 06/02/2005

Subject: Housing, LandUse

CA SB 1024

AUTHOR: Perata (D)

TITLE: Public Works and Improvements: Bond Measure

FISCAL COMMITTEE: yes

URGENCY CLAUSE: no

INTRODUCED: 02/22/2005

LAST AMEND: 05/12/2005

DISPOSITION: Pending

LOCATION: Senate Third Reading File

SUMMARY:
Enacts the Safe Facilities, Improved Mobility, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2005 to authorize state general obligation bonds for specified purposes, including the seismic retrofit of toll bridges, levee improvements, restoration of Proposition 42 transportation funds, port infrastructure and security projects, trade corridors of significance, emissions reduction projects, environmental enhancement projects, and transportation needs in cities and counties relative to housing. Requires voter approval.

STATUS:
05/27/2005 In SENATE. Read second time. To third reading.

PRIVATE FILE: Transportation

Position: SCAG-Watch 05/05/2005

Subject: Revenue/Bond, Transport

CA ACA 4 a

AUTHOR: Keene (R)

TITLE: State Finances

FISCAL COMMITTEE: yes

URGENCY CLAUSE: no

INTRODUCED: 01/20/2005

LAST AMEND: 04/11/2005

DISPOSITION: Pending

LOCATION: Assembly Budget Process Committee

SUMMARY:
Proposes a Constitutional amendment that requires, rather than authorizes, the Governor to issue a proclamation declaring a fiscal emergency, and specifies that the proclamation would be issued when the Governor determines either that General Fund revenues will decline below the estimate of General Fund revenues upon which the Budget Bill for that fiscal year was based, or that General Fund expenditures will increase above that estimate of General Fund revenues, or both, by a specified amount.

STATUS:
04/11/2005 From ASSEMBLY Committee on BUDGET PROCESS with author's amendments.

04/11/2005 In ASSEMBLY. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to ASSEMBLY Committee on BUDGET PROCESS.

PRIVATE FILE: Transportation

COMMENTARY: Prop 42 provisions only

Position: SCAG-Sup&Amend 05/05/2005

Subject: Revenue/Bond, Transport

Compass 2% Strategy Partnership Committee Meeting
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THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE FIRST COMPASS 2% STRATEGY PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Compass 2% Strategy Partnership Committee Meeting held its first meeting at SCAG Offices in downtown Los Angeles. The meeting was called to order by the Bev Perry, Committee Chair.

Members Present

Don Brackenbush	Principal, Public Private Ventures, LLC
Greg Devereaux	City Manager, City of Ontario
Larry Gotlieb	Vice President, KB Homes
Beth Krom	Mayor, City of Irvine
Randall Lewis	Executive VP/Director of Marketing, Lewis Operating Corp.
Ehud G. Mouchly	READI LLC, Affiliate of Sun Cal Companies
Bruce Nestande	Former SCAG President, County Supervisor, and Legislator
Hilary Norton Orozco	Vice Pres., Community Development, Palmer Investments
Bev Perry	Chair, SCAG Past President
Alan Wapner	Mayor ProTem, City of Ontario

SCAG Staff Present

Mark Butala	Senior Regional Planner, SCAG
Lynn Harris	Community Development Manager, SCAG
Hasan Ikhata	Director of Planning and Policy, SCAG
Mark Pisano	Executive Director, SCAG
Brian Wallace	Associate Regional Planner, SCAG

1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Perry called the meeting to order @ 10:00 A.M. She opened the meeting with self-introductions.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF COMPASS 2% STRATEGY

Ms. Harris provided an overview of the Compass 2% Strategy program. She emphasized the importance of this Partnership's direction on determining how to proceed on implementation.

SCAG has been working on the Growth Visioning program for the last five years. The CEHD committee branded it as the Compass program three years ago. This program offers regional and local benefits and resulted in influencing the 2004 RTP Growth Forecast through better integration of transportation and land use.

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The plan is based on the following four principles: mobility, prosperity, livability, and sustainability.

SCAG includes 187 cities. This plan concentrates the implementation efforts on two percent of the regional land mass. SCAG encourages these cities to develop under the Compass principles. All member cities are eligible for technical assistance. Ninety-four of these jurisdictions are part of the 2% Strategy area.

SCAG chose these areas by using the four principles mentioned earlier and based on their proximity to planned and existing infrastructures, existing and planned transportation stations, existing and planned bus rapid transit lines, economic centers, airports, ports, emerging and existing regional metropolitan centers, and subregional centers.

Determining how to effectuate land use in these areas is the committee's challenge for the coming years. Of the 94 jurisdictions, we identified 50 as priority in-fill areas. Of the 50, based on Housing Community Developments state data, 37 have general plans that are eight years or older. Four of the 50 jurisdictions are currently up-dating their general plans.

SCAG is providing the following resources to our member cities as a part of this plan:

- 1) Keyhole Satellite Imagery
- 2) Redevelopment Photo-simulations
- 3) Tipping Point of Analysis, Return on investment financial tool
This financial planning tool facilitates communication between planners, city council members, and potential private developers.
- 4) LA lots - A web-based interactive tool and identifies lots that available for in fill.
Currently this tool is only available for the Los Angeles County. We are asking RFP to offer this tool to the other five counties.

Ms. Harris showed an example of the keyhole satellite imagery and redevelopment photo-simulations using the City of South Pasadena Demonstration Project.

Other statewide tools being developed include Cal-Trans' Transit Oriented Development Study and Database, a bus rapid transit task team – Transit Outreach and Enhancements Branch, and the BTH in-fill housing study.

During the last fiscal year, SCAG worked on 5 Demonstration Projects that mirror the kind of work we want to do and that demonstrate reciprocity to local implementation. These projects involve planning, vision analysis work and redevelopment potential analysis, and a housing feasibility study. The largest project is with the City of Ontario. It uses scenario planning by creating a traffic model in subregional and regional contexts.

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This type of planning is called Visioning. Other MPOs are also participating in Visioning. SCAG is communicating with other MPOs to gain an understanding of their experiences and the highlights and progress they have achieved with their implementation. Portland Metro is the most interesting one of these MPOs because the Oregon state law facilitates their implementation efforts. Envision Utah is another one of these MPOs. An important development in Envision Utah is the establishment of a common language and goal with the Utah cities, which resulted from their Visioning process. Contra Costa is the last of these MPOs. They focus on the general plan. They use the shared vision for up-dates; this allows for a greater understanding of the possibilities and impacts on the jurisdictions.

Ms. Perry asks the attendees if they have questions in regards to Ms. Harris' presentation.

Mr. Greg Devereaux reports that Ontario is currently up-dating their general plan.

3.0 ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Pisano thanks everyone for attending. He emphasizes that this is a campaign/partnership with the goal of implementing Visioning in this region; it is not a committee. This campaign will focus on networking and working outside of the meetings.

The Visioning concept is being or has already been implemented in at least four major California regions. The Sacramento project is called Blue Print. The Sacramento board approved it and is now incorporating it into their growth and transportation plans. The bay area plan is called Regional Livability Footprint; it is a joint effort amongst ABAG, MTC, and local groups. They also are in the process of incorporating it into their growth and transportation plan. The last is SANBAG. The County of San Diego passed an initiative to implement a Vision plan. These Vision plans are being widely discussed in Sacramento.

SCAG has learned from Visioning that we can get our regions to think beyond their expectations and start relieving the housing supply without an enormous political battle.

Visioning has allowed this region to conform to its air-quality regulations. Without it, a loss of federal transportation funds would have occurred. Visioning allows our transportation system to work without spending a lot of money.

This region is now spending seventy percent of every federal, state, and local transportation funds dollar on transit. We are not getting the return we need on it because we don't have an efficient development pattern. SCAG has seen these patterns repeat in each region.

Mr. Pisano observes that the interest groups are engaged in positive discussion of Visioning. A regional framework with local implementation is the way the state can address its growth, housing, transportation, and environmental issues.

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The state approved the allocation of five million dollars this year and five million dollars next year to the implementation of blueprint and Visioning strategies in its regions and sub-regions. This idea is beginning to develop currency within the state. The League and CEQA demands that Visioning must be a part of their housing cost solution strategy.

CEQA is comprised of two committees: the governor CEQA improvement task force and Prada's SB832 working group. Blueprint work is the core of all CEQA reform.

Visioning is now coming into its own in California; other states started working on this several decades ago. California is now stepping up and Mr. Pisano hopes that we will surpass the other states.

Mr. Pisano discussed SCAG's suggestions for the role of this partnership and points out that these are by no means exhaustive but a starting point for discussion. He asks for the attendees' feedback. The first role to be that of a cheerleader in each attendee's sectors. Second is to be an advocate to the policies necessary at the state and federal level to achieve our goal. Third is to work with the individual cities in the private and public sectors.

SCAG wants to influence the mayors of the critical cities to implement this strategy. There are ten critical cities including the City of Los Angeles, Ontario, San Bernardino, and Irvine. These cities' leadership needs to be at this table. This partnership has funding and Sacramento support.

4.0 OPEN UP FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Nestande asks for a summary of the issues that the committee needs to lobby in Sacramento. He asks who is overseeing the five million dollar allocation in Sacramento.

Major Concepts/developments:

- Governor's Task Force on environmental streamlining. The task force's objective is to offer CEQA improvement suggestions. Mr. Pisano and Mr. Gotlieb serve this task force.
- Senator Perata SB832 Working Group: Mr. Pisano has been meeting with this group.
- Environmentalists seem to be willing; they are driven by housing costs and in-fill housing. The question is what can be moved legislatively?
- In-fill areas in blueprint regions could take advantage of some form of CEQA streamlining
- Builders do not want to have an exemption; they want "EIR light" or an environmental process that has minimal requirements in substance and procedures. An agreement on an in-fill EIR that is targeted to these areas maybe a possible piece of legislation this year.
- Put forth a GO bond for transportation and the in-fill housing issues.

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- Long term solution involves CEQA analysis done up front in regional cumulative plans and city and county general plans. Minimize or eliminate CEQA analysis.
 - Planning should be done through general plans not CEQA
 - Need funding for in-fill development like greenfields. Need tools and funding for litigation.
- Secretary of BTH is responsible for handling the funds. CALTRANS and BTH will administer the funds.

Mark Pisano:

- The state is in a downward spiral based on our research. We have a short time period to work on it.
- The environmentalists are unsatisfied with their efforts during the last two decades. They will not give those up however until something better is set into place.
- Need to show that we can work on this collectively and that we are willing to ask for the authority to do it.
- Need to rethink city-building as an enterprise funding strategy instead of a grant-aid structure.
- Economic prosperity is a fundamental principle of the Vision. It must be central to the discussion.
- We must reconfigure the areas around ports (including inland ports) and airports to support logistics industry.

Don Brackenbush:

- Can we clearly define the local 2% opportunity areas? Is there enough opportunity in these areas to meet our goals?
- Need to clarify the quantitative statement of the problem.
- Getting the word out is fundamental. Some cities don't know about this. Coachella Valley has great potential and willing participants - deliver message via Compass presentation to areas between La Quinta and Salton Sea. (Agreed to send initially the South Pasadena presentation as an example of what we can do to tailor to specific cities/subregions).

Greg Devereaux:

- Look for quick wins where political will already exists.
- Use more symposiums - focus on benefits before we talk about what we are going to do.

Larry Gotlieb:

- Tools for COGS: A group of homebuilders, League of Cities, and CEQA that is currently meeting will have a big positive impact. For RHNA, many of HCD's responsibilities may be devolved to the COGS. Working within a ten year planning period gives more certainty to developers.

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- Land use is too complicated - need education/tutorial for legislators.
- Decouple sales tax from land use decisions. Allow jobs and housing to compete with sales tax generators.
- In-fill only accommodates a small percentage of the population growth.

Beth Krom:

- Sounds great in theory. How is this going to work in practice?
- Concerned about not compromising environmental issues.

Randall Lewis:

- Need a Compass 101 to educate larger audiences on the program and of the benefits, especially cities unfamiliar with Compass/and or SCAG.
- Macro PR campaign - use demonstration cities as learning tools for cities in region.
- List of incentives for cities - fiscal benefits, tool kit, argument for housing development instead of relying on sales tax revenue from retail.
- How many cities do we need to reach to make the forecasts work? Is the in-fill solution (as opposed to creating new regional centers or another strategy) a homerun?
- Housing battle needs to be won at big level – need better method.
- Should concentrate on Metro Centers and City Centers to make largest physical impact.
- How do we get jobs to the outlying areas of the region?
- We must strategically target the \$500 million workforce development funds in the region.
- Consider a large-scale, multi jurisdictional Demo Project in Inland Empire (District Scale). Talk to Supervisor Jeff Stone.

Ehud G. Mouchly:

- The environmentalists don't like to change the rules. Concerned CEQA reform may not improve the situation. Wouldn't want to lobby too hard on this issue.

Bruce Nestande:

- What are the in-fill incentives and definitions? How do we apply this in-fill concept to different communities? We must bring good tools to the table.
- We should develop a Compass Partnership Mission Statement.

Hilary Norton Orozco:

- We need to discuss the fiscal impact of area developments.
- An impasse exists regarding transportation decisions at the federal level.
- How will the various sub-systems co-exist together? How do we work together?

Bev Perry:

- The Compass 2% Strategy came forth and is successful to date because people believe that we can't continue to operate the way we have been.

Compass 2% Strategy Partnership Committee Meeting
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Alan Wapner

- Develop education campaign for elected officials and general public.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 A.M.

REPORT

DATE: September 1, 2005

TO: Community, Economic and Human Development Committee

FROM: Joseph Carreras, Lead Planner, Carreras@scag.ca.gov, and tel. 213.236.1856

SUBJECT: Become an Event Sponsor of the "2005 Housing Summit: Removing Barriers to Affordable Housing"

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:

Ho-Viet *for Mark*

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Become an event sponsor of the "2005 Housing Summit: Removing Barriers to Affordable Housing" scheduled for September 19th at the Ontario Convention Center, Ontario, CA.

BACKGROUND:

The Southland faces a housing affordability crisis that is pushing home ownership further out of reach for families across the region. The Summit brings the federal Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Director of the State Department of Housing and Urban Development, elected officials and the building industry together to address the challenge of making homes affordable.

A tentative program and information on registration is attached.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funds have not been allocated in FY 05/06 for this specific sponsorship, however, there is a miscellaneous sponsorship line item in the general fund budget for sponsorships that couldn't be identified ahead of time in which we would want to participate.

REPORT

2005 Housing Summit **Removing Barriers to Affordable Housing**

Monday, September 19, 2005 - 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

Ontario Convention Center

2000 Convention Center Way ~ Ontario, California

Cost Per Person: \$25

Tentative Program

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

CHECK IN

9:30 a.m.

OPENING AND INTRODUCTION OF CONGRESSMAN GARY MILLER

Matt Jordan, President BIA / Baldy View Chapter

REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF ALPHONSO JACKSON, SECRETARY OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Congressman Gary Miller

KEYNOTE ADDRESS "REMOVING BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING"

HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson

"AMERICA'S AFFORDABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE"

HUD Senior Counsel A. Bryant Applegate

10:15 a.m.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEXT "GLOBAL GATEWAY REGIONS"

Mark Pisano, Executive Director Southern CA Association of Governments

10:45 a.m.

CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS (PANEL)

John Young, First Vice President BIA/Southern California

11:15 a.m.

WHAT'S BEING "DUNN" TO REMOVE THEM (PANEL)

Lucy Dunn, California State Housing Director

Chris McKenzie, Executive Director The League of California Cities

John Shirey, Executive Director CRA

12:00 Noon

WHAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN DO TO HELP

San Bernardino County 4th District Supervisor/Second VP Scag Gary Ovit

Randall Lewis, Executive VP/Director of Marketing, Lewis Operating Corp.

12:25 p.m. to 12:30

CLOSING AND RECOGNITION OF SECRETARY JACKSON AND CONGRESSMAN MILLER

To register, visit <http://www.cbpa.csusb.edu/register> or call Lauren or Jarret at (909) 945-1884.



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS**

MEMO

DATE: September 1, 2005

TO: Community, Economic and Human Development Committee (CEHD),
Energy and Environment Committee (EEC),
Transportation and Communication Committee (TCC)

FROM: Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force
Jacob Lieb, Acting Lead Regional Planner, (213) 236-1921, lieb@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Expanded Regional Comprehensive Plan Approach and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

SUMMARY:

Potential changes in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) may create a distinct role for regional plans. Through the RCP process, SCAG may be able to satisfy the requirements for a regional plan as discussed in the on-going negotiations at the State level. In order to anticipate and take advantage of changes to State law, SCAG would need to re-envision its RCP process to some degree. The purpose of this report is both to provide information to the policy committees as well as to gather feedback and comments for the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) Task Force. Pending further discussion at both the task force and committee levels, staff anticipates Regional Council consideration for action at a future date. Additionally, staff will convene information and expanded dialogue sessions on CEQA issues for members of the Regional Council and Policy Committees.

BACKGROUND:

To date, staff has briefed both the RCP Task Force and the CEHD and EEC Committees on on-going CEQA reform discussions. In June, the Regional Council authorized staff to participate in legislative discussions, and to seek agreement on changes to State law based on a defined set of priorities. Briefly summarized, the California Resources Agency has proposed a system whereby regional growth plans, such as SCAG's RCP in process, would qualify supportive developments for streamlined environmental documentation. In light of those discussions, SCAG staff has prepared to approach the RCP process in such a way that the plan could take advantage of proposed provisions in the law for regional planning.

The RCP Task Force discussed this issue at its July 25 meeting, and directed this report to the policy committees. Further, the Task Force suggested that staff convene discussions for members of the policy committees and Regional Council that would provide background information on CEQA and CEQA issues, and allow for more in-depth discussion.

The benefit of pursuing a plan in this way would be a greatly expanded potential to actually implement the region's Compass Growth Vision by creating a preference for supportive plans and projects. The Growth Vision adopted by SCAG in 2004 identifies substantial benefits for the region's performance affecting not just the transportation system but also several environmental and quality of life factors. The basic assumption for SCAG's implementation efforts, including CEQA reform discussions, is that tools must be developed to facilitate growth and development that is identified in the Compass Growth Vision. Any tools

MEMO

developed as part of the Compass effort, including those sought in a new CEQA structure, would be implemented locally at the option of the local government.

The attachment document titled “CEQA Improvement Advisory Group Concept Paper” was prepared and circulated by the California Resources Agency. It describes the elements that a regional plan would need to contain to qualify for streamlining. Summarized briefly, the regional plan should:

- Establish quantifiable plan outcomes across the full range of planning and resource categories.
- Be demonstrably beneficial for the environment.
- Include mitigation measures that are applicable at the project level.
- Propose funding and other incentive mechanisms for supportive implementation at the local level.
- Fully incorporate and reconcile various plans prepared at the State and regional level.

The RCP Task Force has previously discussed and agreed to pursue the addition of plan outcomes as a focus of activity for the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year. In addition, SCAG anticipates completing the RCP process at the same time that the Regional Transportation Plan is adopted. This will allow SCAG to combine the environmental review effort for both plans. At this time, staff is pursuing contacts with State and regional agencies that prepare overlapping plans in order to engage a dialogue on reconciling plan provisions and creating outcomes. The goal of such outreach would be to include these agencies as partners in the RCP process.

It should also be noted that pursuing a regional plan as described in the CEQA discussions would alter the original intent and organizing themes of the RCP. The attached chart, labeled “SCAG Regional Comprehensive Plan” reviews how the potential new process differs from the current approach. Again, this potential re-envisioning of the RCP is being brought forward at this time for discussion as formal action to pursue these changes may be taken up at a later date.

Attachment: CEQA Improvement Advisory Group Concept Paper,
SCAG Regional Comprehensive Plan: Comparison of Current Approach with Potential Expanded Approach
(Chart)

**DRAFT—PRELIMINARY AND TENTATIVE
FOR DISCUSSION ONLY**

**CEQA Improvement Advisory Group Concept Paper
Linking Voluntary Smart Planning with CEQA Improvement**

A new chapter would be added to Title 7 (Planning and Land Use) of the Government Code that provides for the following.

- 1) A voluntary smart plan may be adopted by a council of governments as defined in Government Code Section 65582, or a joint powers agency formed by at least three public agencies with a combined population in excess of 100,000 residents, or a county with a population in excess of 100,000 residents. The voluntary smart plan must take into account the plans and planning activities of state, federal and other public and private agencies. To accomplish this objective, such other entities (including air districts, watershed councils, and other resource agencies) will participate in the voluntary smart planning process. The process will also take advantage of any existing planning exercises, including regional transportation plans, regional conservation planning concepts within any regional habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans, and any regional agricultural planning (such as Department of Conservation mapping of productive agricultural land).
- 2) The council of government, joint power agency, or county will enter into discussions with relevant local, state, and federal entities, as well as other relevant parties, to develop a voluntary smart plan that is designed to meet certain state goals and outcomes (described below), as well as incorporate the adopted general plans of the participating localities. There must be significant public outreach and education to ensure public input into the planning process.
- 3) If the participating local jurisdictions reach consensus on a voluntary smart plan, then each local jurisdiction shall agree to implement the voluntary smart plan and, if necessary, update its general plan and zoning ordinances to conform to the applicable policies within the voluntary smart plan. Future general plan updates or amendments of the general plans of the participating localities must also incorporate state goals that are applicable to the locality.
- 4) The voluntary smart plan must undergo CEQA review. The legislation may provide a special procedure for voluntary smart plans, similar to a General Plan EIR or the Master EIR, i.e., a front-loaded approach that seeks to eliminate or minimize subsequent environmental review. The entity undertaking the voluntary smart plan (i.e., the council of governments, joint powers agency, or county) would be the lead agency and would certify the EIR. Each local plan could be challenged only on the ground that it was not consistent with the voluntary smart plan.
- 5) After approval of the voluntary smart plan and certification of the plan's EIR, project sponsors can develop specified projects identified and evaluated within the voluntary smart plan EIR with little or no subsequent CEQA review. Legal challenges would

DRAFT—PRELIMINARY AND TENTATIVE
FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

be limited to whether the project was consistent with the local plan and implemented voluntary smart plan requirements.

- 6) The State will develop a blueprint of goals and outcomes that will, among other things: (a) foster the development of more housing for all income levels; (b) improve transportation; and (c) protect open space, resource land, and productive agricultural land. The State blueprint will provide general parameters and directions that can then be applied regionally and locally. The voluntary smart plan must meet these goals and outcomes. Examples of goals and outcomes include:
 - a) Adequate housing supply (parameters for adequate housing supply)
 - b) Habitat and agricultural protection (parameters for smart conservation of valuable areas)
 - c) Orderly pattern of development (e.g., growth in environmentally preferable locations; parameters for transportation, infrastructure)
 - d) Efficient use of land (e.g., parameters for reduction of amount of raw land converted for development)
 - e) Adequate water supply (e.g., parameters for insuring dry weather supply, reducing consumption).
- 7) Financial incentives for voluntary smart planning could come from a variety of sources:
 - a) Regional planning law currently allows for tax levies; this could be modified to support voluntary smart planning.
 - b) An infrastructure bond measure could provide infrastructure funding for voluntary smart planning areas.
 - c) Environmental enhancement fund (project sponsors pay into a fund instead of doing an EIR). It has been estimated that developers might pay up to \$20,000 per housing unit for certainty of development within 6 months of application, with no CEQA review.
 - d) Federal transportation dollars or other federal funds
 - e) Tax increment financing or Mello Roos financing.
 - f) Half cent increase in sales tax.
- 8) Reporting and Accountability. The council of government, joint power agency, or county shall be responsible on an ongoing basis for monitoring the success of the voluntary smart plan in meeting the goals and outcomes identified by the state and reporting its findings on a periodic basis.

SCAG Regional Comprehensive Plan
Comparison of Current Approach with Potential Expanded Approach
DISCUSSION DRAFT
June 2005

	Current Approach	Potential Expanded Approach
Organizing Theme	Growth Vision, SCAG's urban form and development strategy for the region.	Broad principles or theme statements based on the Growth Vision.
Primary Content	SCAG Regional Council Policies, and associated action plans to implement regional policies.	Outcome/performance measures organized by CEQA resource categories.
Intent	To provide a clear path for independent implementation consistent with the Growth Vision.	To coordinate and integrate all of the planning work in the region under the loose umbrella of the Growth Vision. To provide the functional equivalent of CEQA documentation at the regional plan scale, thus facilitating project and mitigation delivery.
Outside Content (e.g. plans prepared by other agencies)	Referenced and limited incorporation based on mutually supportive ideas.	Major plans around CEQA resource categories are fully integrated. Outside entities must conform their plans to a) general themes, and b) outcome measures.
Environmental Review	Broad cumulative analysis of region's preferred and alternative growth patterns.	Identification of impacts for all supportive/consistent projects. Creation of locally applicable mitigation procedures for consistent projects.
Process	Content development and approval all under the purview of SCAG, but with broad public participation, input.	Collaborative among all responsible agencies for various resource areas (e.g. Public Utilities Commission, Water Agency, etc.).

MEMO

DATE: August 10, 2005

TO: Executive Committee
Community, Economic and Human Development Committee

FROM: Joseph Carreras, Lead Planner

RE: Review of SCAG's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA)
Responsibilities and Schedule

Summary:

SCAG's focus will be to develop a policy rather than a statistically based RHNA that emphasizes the use of improved growth data locally to help subregions and communities "house their own", and identify priority investment zones where incentives may be targeted to encourage additional housing development

Councils of Government (COGs) have a set of new statutory obligations to prepare regional housing needs assessments (RHNA), as part of the local housing element statutory update requirement. The COG requirements and milestones for meeting housing need determination requirements are contained in one part of the updated housing element law (AB21581), while the use of RHNA targets are provided in another updated section (AB2358). New housing element reform legislation effects the current process, and there is a great deal of uncertainty about how the RHNA process will be funded as reimbursement from the Local State Mandate Commission for RHNA expenditures is no longer permitted. There is authority to charge fees in order to recover costs.

The State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) recently approved SCAG's request to coordinate the next RHNA with its 2007 Regional Transportation Plan forecasting. The July 6 letter is posted on the SCAG website. Key milestones and dates are:

- Duration of housing elements in the SCAG region will be 6 years;
- Consultation on the regions' share of statewide housing need starts 11-1-05.
- Determination of region's housing share occurs by 5-1-06.
- Final determination of local housing allocation shares occurs by 7-1-07.
- Adopted housing elements due by 7-1-08.

For more information, please go to:

www.scag.ca.gov/downloads/home/HCDRHNA_070705ltr.pdf.

Background:

AB 2158 Lowenthal (Ch. 696, Stats. of 2004) Housing Element

This 2004 law revises the process for determining regional housing needs. It includes criteria for councils of governments to use in establishing their methodology for calculating local housing

shares, specifies means of adjusting regional housing need numbers, and provides for sharing of housing allocations between jurisdictions. It amends (Government Code) Sections 65582 and 65584 and adds Gov. code Sections 65584.01, 65584.02, 65584.03, 65584.04, 65584.05, 65584.06, and 65584.07.

AB 2348 Mullin (Ch. 724, Stats. of 2004) Housing Element

This 2004 law amends the criteria for preparing the inventory of available housing sites to meet RHNA goals identified in the local housing element, and provides greater residential development certainty. AB 2348 also expands relocation assistance available to persons displaced from sites identified for substantial rehabilitation. It amends Gov. Code Sections 65583, 65583.1, 65589.5, and 65915 and adds Gov. Code Section 65583.2.

The new law requires:

1. A parcel-specific land inventory;
2. A land inventory analysis that identifies the capacity of each site to meet the housing need;
3. An adequate sites analysis to determine whether the inventory has identified sufficient sites to accommodate RHNA goals in total and by income group.

Newly issued HCD guidance on implementing AB 2348 land inventory requirements for addressing RHNA goals, including Housing Element Default densities by Jurisdiction are available on the State HCD website.

<http://housing.hcd.ca.gov/hpd/hrc/plan/he/ab2348stat04ch724.pdf>

The statewide working group that negotiated the provisions contained in both of these new housing laws included the League of Cities, planners, developers and others, including SCAG representatives.

